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The subjects considered in the treatise are the origin, history and definition of special assessments; constitutional and statutory powers and restrictions; limitations on the exercise of the power; purposes for which special assessments are authorized; property subject to special assessments and exemptions; initiatory proceedings; proceedings necessary to acquire and retain jurisdiction; confirmation; damages; collection; and duties, rights and remedies of the taxpayer. The book follows the method of faithful legal compilation and exposition, with an occasional not unwelcome interjection of personal opinion and suggestion. The general method of treatment appears to be well adapted to practical uses, and the ground is so thoroughly covered that it should be of much value to the practitioner or special student of the subject.

THE AMERICAN LAWYER: AS HE WAS—AS HE IS—AS HE CAN BE. By JOHN R. DOS PASSOS. New York: The Banks Law Publishing Company. 1907. pp. iv, 185.

It is an old and cherished aspiration, that of the coming of some great lawyer, some avatar of the profession, skilled in all its mysteries but emancipated from its traditions and conventions, who shall in the fullness of time appear and hold the mirror of judgment up to the bar and its pretensions. Apparently the author of this little volume, himself a respected member of the New York bar, believes himself to be the one called to this high duty. His avowed aim is to bring home to the profession to which he belongs "The Delphian invocation"—"know thyself." Before him "no lawyer has yet published the real nature of his calling—going from the top to the bottom of it." He proposes "to endeavor to ascertain accurately the due relation of lawyers to other interests of the community and then to inquire if they have lived up to it." He undertakes to answer the questions, "What is a lawyer? What is his real mission? What relation does he bear to the government of which he is a citizen? What are his real duties to society?"—no mean task, if it be adequately performed.

It is a disappointment to be obliged to record an adverse judgment on this pretentious performance. It was hardly to be expected that the whole duty of the lawyer could be adequately set forth and expounded within the compass of 185 pages, but the bar certainly had a right to look for judicious criticism, sage counsel and a reasoned exposition of its functions in the body politic, from the point of view of a veteran practitioner. None of these things appear, however, in the pages of the book before us. Instead we have indiscriminate denunciation of the legal profession, the law, the doctrine of *stare decisis* (which has outlived its usefulness, if it ever had any, and which in its best estate "necessarily dwarfed the intellect and stifled moral convictions") and the legal education of to-day. The author has two pet aversions, the "case method" of legal instruction (which he doesn't understand) and the New York Code of Civil Procedure (which must be very bad indeed, if it deserves a tithe of the epithets which he lavishes upon it), and he is full of poignant regrets for the departed glories of the profession—its forensic eloquence, its high-bred courtesy, its profound and varied learning, its "aristocratic and social prestige."

Surely we have fallen on evil times! And it is to the period of the Civil War that we must refer the beginnings of the decadence of the bar, "its transformation from a profession to a business," with all that such a change, in an age of low ideals and commercialism, implies.

But perhaps enough has been said to show that we are not dealing with a Lawyer's *Apologia*, or the much-desired *Summa* of the Lawyer's duties to Society, but only with a lawyer's screed.

REVIEWS TO FOLLOW:

DUE PROCESS OF LAW UNDER THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION. By LUCIUS POLK McGEHEE. Northport: Edward Thompson Co. 1906. pp. x. 451.

ACT OF STATE IN ENGLISH LAW. By W. HARRISON MOORE. London: John Murray. 1906. pp. xi. 178.

AMERICAN CONSULAR JURISDICTION IN THE ORIENT. By FRANK E. HINCKLEY. Washington: W. D. Lowdermilk & Co. 1906. pp. xx, 283.

A DIGEST OF IMPORTANT CASES ON THE LAW OF CRIMES. By JOHN R. ROOD. Ann Arbor: George Wahr. 1906. pp. 623.

AMERICAN LEGISLATURES AND LEGISLATIVE METHODS. By PAUL S. REINSCH. New York: The Century Co. 1907. pp. x, 337.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PROOF. (In its Relation to the English Law of Judicial Evidence.) By J. R. GULSON. London: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1907. pp. xv, 496.

MARKETABLE TITLE TO REAL ESTATE, BEING ALSO A TREATISE ON THE RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF VENDORS AND PURCHASERS OF DEFECTIVE TITLES (AS BETWEEN THEMSELVES). Second Edition. By CHAPMAN W. MAUPIN. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1907. pp. lxxvi, 910.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF PRIVATE CORPORATIONS. By WILLIAM L. CLARK, JR. Second Edition. By FRANCIS B. TIFFANY. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1907. pp. xvi, 721.

PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND DIPLOMACY. By SIR THOMAS BARCLAY. London and Boston: Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd. Boston Book Co. 1907. pp. xx, 383.

THE LAW OF PRIVATE PROPERTY IN WAR WITH A CHAPTER ON CONQUEST. By NORMAN BENTWICH. London: Sweet & Maxwell L't'd. 1907. pp. xii, 151.

A TREATISE ON SUITS IN CHANCERY. By HENRY R. GIBSON. Knoxville, Tenn.: Gaut-Ogden Co. 1907. pp. xx, 1203.

SELECT ESSAYS ON ANGLO-AMERICAN LEGAL HISTORY. By VARIOUS AUTHORS. Compiled and Edited by a Committee of the Association of American Law Schools. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1907. Vol. I. pp. ix, 847.

LAW: ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH AND FUNCTION, Being a Course of Lectures Prepared for Delivery before the Law School of Harvard University. By JAMES COOLIDGE CARTER. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1907. pp. vii, 355.

THE LAW OF TORTS. By MELVILLE MADISON BIGELOW. Eighth Edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1907. pp. xxxv, 502.

THE SEIGNIORIAL SYSTEM IN CANADA. By WILLIAM BENNETT MUNRO. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 1907. pp. xiii, 296.